

PRACTICE BASED OUTPUTS

REF 2021

Combined Outputs Portfolio Submission & Additional Information:

Distant Voices -A Giant on the Bridge (Composition and Performance) Dr Jo Collinson Scott
(performing as Jo Mango)

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RESEARCH OUTPUTS IJWS Academy

1. SCRIPT & COMPOSITION

The script of a 120min narrative gig performance titled 'A Giant on the Bridge' combining original songs, stories, poems, raps and other texts co-written, co-created or co-researched with people associated with the criminal justice system.

The main practice-based research output of the major 3-year interdisciplinary research project Distant Voices: Coming Home, funded by the ESRC and the AH RC.

Devised by Scott along with dramaturg Liam Hurley, research assistant Phil Thomas and Distant Voices P.I. Fergus McNeill. Creative and artistic direction, research design and research curation by Scott. (See Appendix A for full listing of authorship of songs/texts)

Due to premiere public performances: Queens Hall, Edinburgh; St Luke's Glasgow; April 2020
-POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Gig poster artwork by BoxDog Inc. created for the premiere of A Giant on the Bridge {Postponed by Coronavirus outbreak}

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RESEARCH OUTPUTS IJWS Academy

2. FILM

A film of one of the live performances -FILMING WAS POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS. The link above is to a

read-through version of the script of the live performance, filmed under lockdown conditions by the artists to give an impression of the material in lieu of the final performance itself (missing band-arrangements, actor interactions, choreography, direction, etc).

Performed by Scott (under the performing name Jo Mango) along with artists Solareye, Louis Abbott, Jill O'Sullivan, and Rachel Sermanni.

Premiere screening of film June 2020, Sassari, Italy -POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

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CONTEXT IJWS Academy

WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF ACADEMIC DISCOURSE

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Situated most closely within Stevance and Lacasse's definition of the field of 'Research Creation', where this pertains to collaborative practice-based methodologies.

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In the context of its cross-disciplinary fields, it can be viewed as part of the 'sensory turn' in ethnographic practice, and in criminology ('sensory penalties') in particular.

•
Such collaborative community-based academic practice related to social change is in the lineage of the kinds of recent practice encouraged by e.g. AHRC Connected Communities strands.

•
It references practice-based methodologies developed in other community-based collaborative contexts, including my AHRC funded research project Fields of Green (Wrack Lines EP)

WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF OWN CREATIVE PRACTICE

• In the context of my own creative practice it vastly extends my previous collaborative practice experience in being a co-songwriter for many Scottish artists (Teenage Fanclub, Admiral Fallow etc) as well as a 20-year long community music practitioner.
• And draws on a marked recent trend in Scottish independent music towards 'gig theatre' (e.g. Karine Polwart's Wind Resistance) and narratives exploring authenticity and appropriation of voice (e.g. Kieran Hurley's Mouthpiece)

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KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS LJWS ~z.~:m,

The key research questions of the overarching project Distant Voices: Coming Home, that this output addresses are:

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How do individual citizens and civil society institutions experience, make sense of and engage in re/integration after punishment --whether as citizens 'coming home' or as those receiving them?

•
How can we best understand the social, political, ethical and aesthetic nature and potential of these encounters and what they reveal about re/integration?

In addition to these, more in-depth questions that have been developed through the practice associated with the development of A Giant on the Bridge specifically are:

• What music-specific or music-related practices help create or mediate spaces where differing or oppositional perspectives can be held and so e form of resolution accomplished? E.g. between citizens coming ome and those eceiving them.

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METHODOLOGY LJWS Academy

This research is part of a larger collaborative action research project that seeks to enable a wide range of differently situated citizens and civil society institutions to engage in a community of enquiry and of creative practice (primarily songwriting) in which re/integration is explored and enacted, enriching our understandings of what re/integration means, why it matters and how it can be better supported. This has involved an iterative process of exploring and supporting reintegration through making songs together, sharing these with others and through capturing the learning gained in and through these practices.

A Giant on the Bridge is the main practice-led research output of the project, which reflects on the processes involved in the project's activities, explores interdisciplinary connections and correspondences between different forms of knowledge/data created across the project using tacit and implicit forms of creative knowledge (rather than standard forms of analysis or triangulation).

These forms of knowledge/data include:

•
Recordings of 770 songs co-written in closed prison settings, community justice settings, by

current and former prisoners, prison staff, criminal justice social workers, victims of crime etc.

-

Interviews with over 740 unique participants

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Analyses of the process of creation of the songs

-

Field notes from over 20 performances/broadcasts of songs in public & private settings

The piece draws on two novel creative methods {'TREES' and 'Pebbles'} developed by Scott and the community of enquiry with the aim of generating these correspondences and creative forms of triangulation, incorporating and illuminating data from across the project. We then incorporated the results of these methods into the development of the final narrative gig piece.

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CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD LJWS Academy

A Giant on the Bridge, and Distant Voices (the wider project of which it is a major outcome) have:

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Enhanced understanding of the role and effectiveness of songwriting practices in criminal justice and generated significant learning about community engagement in re/integration.

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Generated several significant new methodological innovations in the field of collaborative research creation.

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In using songs as both a means of and catalyst for communication (through CAR practices), the project has broken down disciplinary borders allowing a richer understanding of public participation in one of the most contested areas of political life.

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This has increased the capacity of academic researchers as well as civil society institutions, professionals and third sector organisations to engage with re/integration and build capacities and opportunities for re/integration.

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DISSEMINATION LJWS Academy

Conference Presentations

Annual Lecture of the Intl Journal of Restorative Justice, with F. McNeill, Sassari, Italy (June, 2020 -POSTPONED)

Part of plenary presentation at Howard League for Penal Reform International conference, 'Crime, Justice and Social Harms' (Oxford University, April 2020 -POSTPONED)

XX IASPM Biennial Conference, Canberra, Australia (June 2019)

Live Performances

2020); St Luke's, Glasgow (Apr 2020) -Full Performance (POSTPONED)

Union Chapel, London {Mar 2019}; CTM Festival, Berlin (Jan 2020) -Performance of Songs

Film Screenings

11th International Conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice, Sassari, Italy (June, 2020)

POSTPONED

Publications (referencing work)

Urie, McNeil!, Cathcart Froden, Collinson Scott, Crockett Thomas, Escobar, Macleod & McKerracher (2019) Reintegration, hospitality and hostility: song-writing and song-sharing in criminal justice.

Journal of Extreme Anthropology,

(doi: 10.5617/jea.6914) (Early Online Publication)

CORE COMMUNITY

16-20 people in a community of enquiry undertaking research together over 3 years:

' those formerly imprisoned ' prison managers
' criminal justice social workers ' family outside
' victims of crime ' third sector workers

AGIANT ON THE BRIDGE

generated by layers of co-productive methods,
involving work co-produced
by over 50 participants

PREMIERES POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

Parts of interim piece performed at Scottish Government's Evidence Into Policy fortnight (Scottish Parliament); Celtic Connections Festival, Glasgow; Union Chapel, London; CTM Festival, Berlin; IASPM Intl, Canberra, Australia.

IMPACT/ENGAGEMENT

including people in prison, victims of crime, restorative justice workers, family outside, social workers, & prison officers in Scottish prisons and community (justice) settings.

RESULTING IN

PARTICIPANTS

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CO-WRITERS

songs co-written and recorded with 12 high profile Scottish songwriters.

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REFERENCES, LINKS, PRESS LJWS Academy

DISTANT VOICES (or which AGOTB is one outcome) has produced and released:

- 1 studio album (Not Known at this Address, 10 tracks)

- 2 x studio EPs (Looking at Colours Again. 5 tracks [release delayed by COVID-19], and Oblivion and Beyond, 5 tracks)

- A devised workshop session (Making Things New) for use with professionals/practitioners in disciplines related to desistance strategies (presented to groups of journalists, social workers, employers)

- A 90min piece of gig theatre (A Giant on the Bridge) (premiere POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19, a read-through performance was filmed during lockdown)

- Two podcast series -Not Known at This Address and Our Chance of Becoming Human

- Biogs/ web documentation -www.distantvoices.org.uk

Publications/Invited presentations include:

- Berlin, Germany -CTM Festival -Jo Collinson Scott, 'A Giant on the Bridge: Between Prison and Return', 30.01.20 (performance and talk) • Urie, A., McNeil!, F., Cathcart Froden, L., Collinson Scott, J., Crockett Thomas, P., Escobar, O., Macleod, S., McKerracher,

G. (2019) 'Reintegration, Hospitality and Hostility: Song-writing and Song-sharing in Criminal Justice', Journal ofExtreme Anthropology, 3 (1), pp.77-101. DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.5617/jea.6914>

Media:

- BBC Scotland (Reporting Scotland) Feature on Distant Voices and Celtic Connections performance -05.02.19 Full video: <https://www.voxliminis.co.uk/media/bbc-scotland-reporting-scotland-february-sth-2019/>

- STV News (Scotland Tonight) Feature on Distant Voices (and performance at Celtic Connections Festival) -30.01.19 Full video: <https://www.voxliminis.co.uk/media/distant-voices-on-stv-news-scotland-tonight/>

- STV News Feature on Distant Voices Vox Sessions in HMP Inverness -02.19 Full video: <https://www.voxliminis.co.uk/media/stv-news-visit-distant-voices-at-hmp-inverness/>